

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 6, 10-16, 18-24, 26-45, 47-53, 55 and 59 are now pending.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 15, 18, 19 and 21-24 have been amended to depend from claim 59.

Claims 2-4, 7-9, 17, 25, 46, 54 and 56-58 are cancelled.

Claims 13, 14, 26-45, 47-53, 55 and 59 have been indicated as being in condition for allowance for the reasons of record.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1, 3-6, 10-12, 15, 16, 18, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Figov (USP 5,623,001) in view of Nguyen et al. (USP 6,270,561).

Claims 1, 5, 6, 15, 18, 23 and 24 have been amended to depend from claim 59 which was indicated previously to be in condition for allowance. Claims 10-12 and 16 now depend from claim 59 by amendment of intervening claims.

Claims 3-4 are cancelled.

The rejection is rendered moot by amendment.

Claims 1, 3-6, 10-12, 15, 16, 18, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mantell et al. (USP 5,641,346) in view of Nguyen et al. (USP 6,270,561).

Claims 1, 5, 6, 15, 18, 23 and 24 have been amended to depend from claim 59 which was previously indicated to be in condition for allowance. Claims 10-12 and 16 now depend from claim 59 by amendment of intervening claims.

Claims 3-4 are cancelled.

The rejection is rendered moot by amendment.

Claims 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Figov (USP 5,623,001) or Mantell et al. (USP 5,641,346) in view of Nguyen et al. (USP 6,270,561) as applied to claims 1 and 46 above and further in view of Kamata et al. (USP 6,110,987).

Claims 19 and 21 have been amended to depend from claim 59 which was previously indicated to be in condition for allowance. Claim 20 ultimately depends from claim 59 by dependence from intervening claim 19.

The rejection is rendered moot by amendment.

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Figov (USP 5,623,001) or Mantell et al. (USP 5,641,346) in view of Nguyen et al. (USP 6,270,561) and further in view of Nguyen et al. (USP 6,664,024).

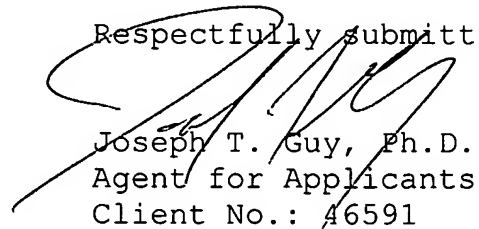
Claim 20 has been amended to depend from claim 59 which was previously indicated to be in condition for allowance.

The rejection is rendered moot by amendment.

CONCLUSIONS

Claims 1, 5, 6, 10-16, 18-24, 26-45, 47-53, 55 and 59 are now pending in the present application. All rejections have been rendered moot and all claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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